Under the sea in Mexico

Discover Mexico's top five underwater spots, including Gordo Banks, where you can dive with the hammerhead sharks PAGE 9

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

SIDNEY CROSBY AND OTHER NHL STARS SAY THEY'RE WILLING TO TAKE LESS IN THEIR FIRST OFFER TO THE LEAGUE PAGE 12

SASKATOON metro®

Wednesday, August 15, 2

News worth sharing.

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Should our cops have tattoos?

Re-thinking ink. RCMP says certain tattoos on police officers are OK, but one Alberta city looks at outright ban of all visible ink on cops

ROB BROWN
Metro in Regina

RCMP say the recent adoption of a tattoo policy is keeping sound judgment front and centre, while another city makes a move to cover up all inked cops.

"It's all about common sense," says F Division Cpl. Rob King.

A new policy banning all visible tattoos on police officers is currently being debated in Medicine Hat, Alta. The city's police Chief Andy McGrogan says he is pleased with the new policy, which also restricts having unnatural hair colours.

Earlier this year the RCMP put a tattoo policy into effect, but it doesn't ban tattoos outright. King says the RCMP moves to ban tattoos that will likely undermine the credibility of an officer.

"There can be no visible tattoos that are potentially sexually explicit, racist or vulgar. It is a pretty straightforward thing."

Kevin Leippi, owner of Traditional Tattoo in Regina, said he counts members of Depot Division as clients. He said that in his experience, members stick to positive art and messages when it comes to getting tattoos. ROB BROWN/METRO IN REGINA

It is straightforward to Regina resident Francesca MacLean. She says seeing any law enforcement officer with tattoos is fine.

"Most of the stuff these days is colourful and vibrant, so as long as cops weren't covering themselves, I think it is fine."

Longtime Queen City resident Don Banden said if potential RCMP officers think it is fine to inundate themselves with permanent ink, that perhaps law enforcement isn't their best career option.

"Offensive or not, I see a problem with that. I would have a tougher time taking him (or her) seriously."

Ontario's provincial police attempted to restrict tattoos in 2010; however, after a complaint was made by an officer, the restriction was overturned.

King said the RCMP policy is retroactive.

"If someone had (an offensive) tattoo prior to the policy, they'll have to cover it up," he said.

Unlike many professional athletes such as Cyril Rioli of the Australian Football League, police officers often need to think twice before getting inked. SCOTT BARBOUR/GETTY IMAGES

NEWS 1

Huskies alumni introduces Rutherford to Lord Stanley

A glimpse. Brent McEwen brings famous trophy to Rutherford Rink for fans to enjoy

DORIAN GEIGER
dorian.geiger@metronews.ca

Former University of Saskatchewan hockey player and coach Brent McEwen never envisioned ever hoisting the Stanley Cup in Rutherford Rink.

This all changed on Tuesday, when for the first time in the Stanley Cup's 109-year history, the legendary trophy entered Rutherford, courtesy of the Huskies alumnus, who also happens to be a scout with the NHL champions Los Angeles Kings.

Young hockey enthusiasts gather round Lord Stanley's mug behind the bench at Rutherford Rink. The cup was brought to town by L.A. Kings scout Brent McEwen. DORIAN GEIGER/METRO

What a feeling

"Deep down you always wonder if you can ever win a Stanley Cup or be involved with a team that wins it, and I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity and be involved with a good team."

Brent McEwen, L.A. Kings scout

"Deep down you always wonder if you can ever win a Stanley Cup or be involved with a team that wins it, and I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity and be involved with a good team," he said.

McEwen, also an ex-general manager for the Western Hockey League's Saskatoon Blades from 1997-2004, has been a scout with the Kings for eight years.

After the Kings dominated the 2012 NHL playoffs, the franchise granted McEwen a single day with the prize. McEwen was elated to have an opportunity to show off the Stanley Cup at the university, the same place he used to study, skate and eventually toil behind the bench.

Hundreds of fans, supporters, friends and family of McEwen and Huskie Athletics flooded into Rutherford for a glimpse of Lord Stanley's mug before McEwen moved festivities to the backyard of his Saskatoon home.

Prior to arriving in Saskatoon, the Stanley Cup visited Vancouver.

The next stop on its tour will be Meadow Lake on Wednesday.

Off the ice

Secrets inside hockey's cup

Walter Neubrand is kind of like the NHL's version of a secret-service agent.

Neubrand is one of three Hockey Hall of Fame employees charged with protecting hockey's holy grail during the off-season

He was on hand at the Stanley Cup celebrations.

You've had the cup everywhere from Hollywood to the Whitehouse. Where's the craziest place you've taken it?

"We took it up the Eiffel Tower a couple years ago with Cristobal Huet. He was the first and only French person to have won the Stanley Cup."

What's the nuttiest thing you've seen consumed out of the cup?

"(Former Chicago Blackhawks player) Tomas Kopecky had cow-stomach soup out of it. (Former Tampa Bay Lightning player) Brad Richards had lobster bisque out of it."

How many beers can you pour into the Stanley Cup?

"Bottles or cans? 14 cans. 17 bottles."

'Spent her life building for this moment'

Kaylyn Kyle, Olympic bronze medallist with Canada's women's soccer team, is surrounded by family and fans at Saskatoon's John G. Diefenbaker International Airport on Monday. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Pat Kyle, the mother of Olympic athlete Kaylyn Kyle, said her daughter's dreams became reality when she won the Olympic bronze medal at the 2012 Games, noting that her daughter "spent her whole entire life building for this moment."

"She started playing soccer at the age of six, and one day in my office she wrote on one of the little yellow stickies, 'Kaylyn Kyle, #6, Team Canada' and I didn't find it until weeks later, but I found it and questioned her about it and she said, 'Mom, I want to be on Team Canada,'" Pat said.

She continued, "This started years ago."

Kaylyn herself said she was still charged from the bronze-medal win.

"It's awesome coming through the doors and seeing all my family and friends.... It's incredible," she said, noting the medal is also for her family and everyone who supported her.

"My parents were at the tournament the entire time, same with my sister and her boyfriend, but they never got to see the medal, just cause it was really crazy busy ... so it's great to come home and see them right when I get off the plane," she said.

"I owe it to them. They woke up every morning at 5 a.m. to take me to soccer."

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Protection program

Feds dish out for flooding

The federal government is offering more flood-protection money to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Quebec.

Public Safety Minister Vic Toews has revealed details of a $99.2-million program first announced in the spring.

Toews says some of the money will be used to reimburse the three provinces for permanent flood-mitigation measures such as dikes and culverts that were built during last year's heavy flooding.

Toews says funding flood protection is a new step, because the government usually only helps cover repair work after a disaster.

The money may not be enough to satisfy the provinces. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Health crisis

First Nation flood causes water issues

A Saskatchewan First Nation is asking for help to deal with what it calls a growing health crisis due to flooding.

The James Smith Cree Nation, east of Prince Albert, said drinking water in at least nine homes was contaminated when flood water leaked into their cisterns and that a child had to be airlifted after getting sick from drinking the water. Chief Wally Burns said heavy rains are destroying what's left of roads and water systems and creating dangerous health conditions, especially for children and elders. The community of 3,000 declared a state of emergency on Aug. 4. More than 120 people have been evacuated. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Report

Province's boom continues: CMHC

According to a Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corp. (CMHC) report, Saskatchewan's boom is not slowing. The CMHC predicts employment will rise by two per cent by the end of 2012 and 1.4 per cent in 2013. METRO

Mobile news

From fresh-faced youngsters to vocal virtuosos: Scan the code to see these kids transform into colourful characters at the Peking Opera summer camp.

Rob Ford

T.O. mayor admits to 'probably' reading, driving

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford admits he was "probably" reading at the wheel during a commute, but he says it didn't affect his driving. Photos on Twitter show him reading. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Csanad Szegedi

Hungarian anti-Semite finds he's Jewish himself

As a rising star in Hungary's far-right Jobbik Party, Csanad Szegedi was notorious for his incendiary comments on Jews: He accused them of "buying up" the country, railed about the "Jewishness" of the political elite and claimed Jews were desecrating national symbols.

Then came a revelation that knocked him off his perch as ultra-nationalist: Szegedi himself is a Jew.

Following weeks of rumours, Szegedi acknowledged that his grandparents on his mother's side were Jews, making him one, too. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California

Hearse driver dies on way to a funeral

Beverly Hills, Calif., police say a hearse driver who was found dead with a body in the vehicle likely died of natural causes while taking the casket to a funeral. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dorval

Two killed, others injured in Quebec collision

Two people were killed in a violent collision that flipped a city bus onto its side and injured numerous other people Tuesday in Quebec.

The accident between the city bus and two cars occurred during rush hour, at around 6 p.m., at an intersection in an industrial park in the municipality of Dorval, near the Montreal airport.

Police said two people were declared dead on the scene — a woman passenger in a BMW, and someone who was ejected from the city bus. Two others were seriously injured; others were hurt.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Russian sect eccentricity exaggerated?

Kazan. Questions raised over whether officials overstated how the sect lived

Russian authorities spoke of a creepy cult living in an "eight-level ant house" dug deep into the ground, where children were kept in unheated cells and starved of daylight.

A visit to the compound suggests a more ordinary reality.

A brief visit inside the compound, which provided shocking headlines around the world when police raided it and seized the children, revealed none of the elaborate underground design described by prosecutors.

Nor does a police video showing rooms inside.

The father of a cult member, who originally disapproved of his daughter joining the group, said he was able to visit freely. The portrayals raise questions about whether authorities have exaggerated the eccentricity, to show they are cracking down on Islamic groups. The spokeswoman for Kazan prosecutors did not answer repeated calls to her office on Monday.

Police stumbled upon the bizarre sect in early August as they investigated what they described as a terrorist attack that killed a top cleric in oil-rich Tatarstan, where the population is 60 per cent Muslim. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sect against state

Sect leaders are enraged over the seizure of the children and the police action against their holy project, and vowed to triumph. "Allah will punish you," Gumer Ganiyev of the sect yelled at police. "You will all die tomorrow."

- The fate of the sect's property remains unclear. Police, accompanied by social workers and construction experts, conducted a third search last week to further assess the living conditions.

Proposed law comes back to bite Ryan

Republican U.S. presidential candidate Mitt Romney, front, and vice-presidential running mate Paul Ryan greet supporters in Wisconsin. Romney's eldest son, Tagg, and his wife announced the birth of twin boys in May with the help of in vitro fertilization and a surrogate mother. But that's a process that would be illegal under a proposed law Ryan once advocated, the Sanctity of Human Life Act. Co-sponsored by Ryan, it would have enshrined the notion that life begins at fertilization, essentially criminalizing in vitro fertilization.

MARY ALTAFFER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palo Alto. Computers snatched in burglary at Steve Jobs's residence

Several computers and personal items worth more than $60,000 US were stolen from the seven-bedroom northern California home of the late Steve Jobs.

Cops insist it was a run-of-the-mill burglary. Kariem McFarlin, 35, has been arrested. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas. Gunman in deadly shootout was killed by responding cops

The gunman in a deadly shootout near Texas A&M University was fatally wounded by officers who responded to reports of gunfire. College Station police Chief Jeff Capps said Thomas Alton Caffall had guns in his home. A policeman and bystander were also killed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hate ignites bitter battle

Young people revolt in France. A school, a gym and cars torched in Amiens as riot police face cascades of buckshot and fireworks

Months of mounting tension between police and young people in a troubled district of northern France exploded in deadly violence on Tuesday.

In a grim night in Amiens, dozens of youths firing buckshot and fireworks faced off against riot officers.

Seventeen officers were injured, a pre-school and public gym were torched, and at least three passing drivers in Amiens were dragged from their cars. A dozen cars were burned.

The immediate cause of the riots was unclear, but a standoff between police and people attending a memorial for a young man who died in a motorcycle accident may have been one trigger. Officials stressed police were not involved in the death.

The eruption of violence shows how little relations have changed between police and youths in France's housing projects since nationwide riots in 2005 raged unchecked for nearly a month, leaving entire neighbourhoods in flames.

The sister of the young man who died in the motorcycle accident said it was impossible for people in her community to even speak with the police.

"As soon as they see young people, it's to handcuff them or harass them," said Sabrina Hadji, 22.

"The dialogue is completely broken."

Hadji, whose 20-year-old brother Nadir died in the accident, added: "The police in Amiens really, really, really hate the people in the northern part of Amiens. They consider us to be animals."

Anger was still running high when Interior Minister Manuel Valls arrived in the neighbourhood Tuesday afternoon.

A small group of people tried to push through Valls' security detail as he walked through the area, alternately booing him, cursing him and trying to speak to him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After a night of rioting, a burned-out car sits on a street in Amiens, about 120 kilometres north of Paris. The French government has designated the city as one of 15 impoverished zones that will receive more money and security.

GEORGES CHARRIERES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hydro horror

Woman billed for streetlights

A Connecticut power company has reimbursed a woman almost $10,500 US after acknowledging it billed her for 25 years for the electricity used to power streetlights near her home.

Grace Edwards said she discovered the billing error after a prospective buyer for the house in Cheshire, Conn., asked for a history of utility charges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamburg a first

City recognizes Islamic holidays

Authorities in Hamburg have become the first in Germany to officially recognize Islamic holidays so Muslim employees and students can celebrate them at home.

Similar agreements exist with Christian and Jewish communities.

Hamburg's mayor, Olaf Scholz, hopes the deal will serve as an example for other German cities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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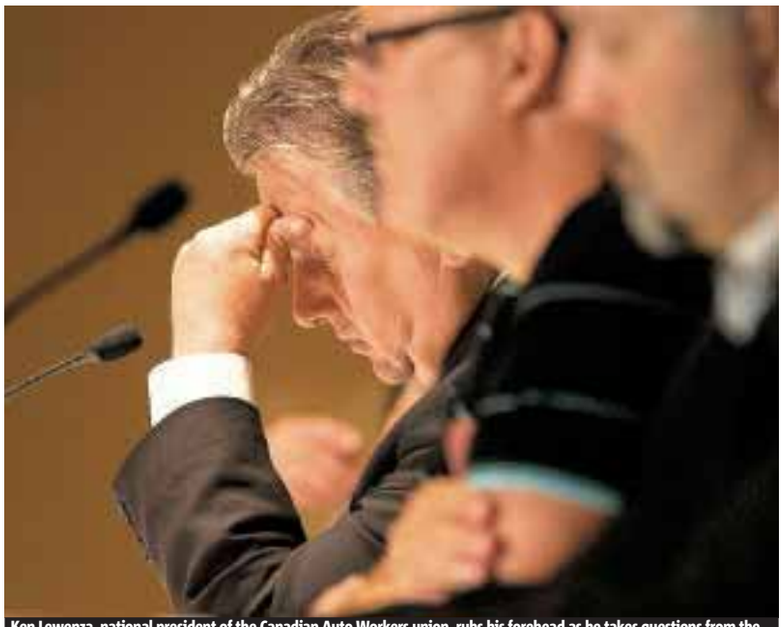


Ken Lewenza, national president of the Canadian Auto Workers union, rubs his forehead as he takes questions from the media following a meeting to discuss contracts with General Motors in Toronto on Tuesday. It was the first of a series of meetings with the big three automakers. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CAW wants to share in top automakers' increasing profits

Union. Canadian Auto Workers meets with top North American automakers to discuss new labour contracts

The Canadian Auto Workers said it doesn't expect to regain all of the concessions it made when automakers were struggling during the recession, but it wants to share in the profits now that the industry has rebounded.

"We aren't going in there demanding everything back from 2009," CAW national president Ken Lewenza said Tuesday as the union kicked off contract negotiations with the three big North American automakers.

"We're just saying that we have to find a way to share in the successes that our members have built over many years."

The union met with General Motors Canada on Tuesday morning and with Chrysler Canada in the afternoon. It will meet with Ford Canada on Wednesday. Contracts for workers at all three companies expire Sept. 17. The union made a number of concessions, including to wages, vacation time and cost-of-living payments, to help the ailing automakers during the 2008-09 recession.

Lewenza says the CAW is hoping to make some progress now that the companies are making a profit.

But a Chrysler Canada spokesman warned Tuesday that although the company has returned to profitability, it is not out of the woods. "Those gains have been modest and it is critical that we not return to an uncompetitive situation," said Todd Bested, Chrysler Canada's director of labour relations.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sacrifices

"The companies have learned to make money even at low volumes. Workers' sacrifices have been a big part of that success."

Ken Lewenza, CAW national president

Plummeting stock

Groupon decline unprecedented

Groupon's stock is 27 per cent cheaper Tuesday, but that doesn't make it a bargain.

Its stock fell as analysts slashed targets and ratings on the online deals company after it reported its first-ever quarter-to-quarter decline in gross billings, a measure of how much money Groupon collects from customers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Social media

Google+ switches to snappy addresses

If you're a devoted Facebook or LinkedIn user, chances are you have a so-called "vanity URL," or a short, custom web address for your profile.

Now, Google+ is also appealing to users' narcissism, by switching its unwieldy addresses for snappier ones.

The URLs will first be offered to verified users like brands and celebrities before being rolled out to the public. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Market Minute

DOLLAR
100.82¢ US (+0.06¢)

TSX
11,853.61 (+15.28)

OIL
$93.43 US (+70¢)

GOLD
$1,602.40 US (-$10.20)

Natural gas: $2.834 US (+10.5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,172.14 (+2.71)

GLEEFUL BAD GIRL TO THE END

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/voices/just-saying

If Hugh Hefner is the male, er, face of the sexual revolution, Helen Gurley Brown was its female frontispiece.

I mean, anyone who has breast implants at 73 has earned pride of place in the Sexual Revolution Hall of Fame, just across the aisle from Barry White and two statues down from Madonna (oh wait, Madonna's membership is still pending).

Sadly, while Hefner keeps on ticking like a randy old grandfather clock, Gurley Brown's best-before date has finally expired (exhausted itself?) at the ripe old age of 90.

Obviously, there's something about an active sex life.

For those of you who don't know what I'm talking about, gather round. Helen Gurley Brown single-handedly brought 50 per cent of the human population into the modern era by publishing Sex and the Single Girl in 1962. She spent the rest of her considerable life updating the sexual revolution on a monthly basis as the editor of Cosmopolitan, the magazine that promises 30 Things to Do to a Naked Man.

The men of the world should be grateful, at least. Everywhere else, a naked man is usually arrested.

For women, reviews have been mixed. Gurley Brown may not have been the first to acknowledge in public that women have sex when they're not married, but she was certainly the first to promote it gleefully. Feminists saw her as a male-chauvinist plot counselling women to adopt a kind of strategic subservience to get what they want — especially if what they want are multiple orgasms.

Legacy

"Lots of people did not know how to pronounce 'orgasm' before (Cosmo) was launched."

One Cosmo editor, quoted in the Guardian

Not that there's anything wrong with that. "Lots of people did not know how to pronounce 'orgasm' before (Cosmo) was launched," said one Cosmo editor, quoted in the Guardian.

Gurley Brown's real dirty little secret was that her dirty little secret was hard work. Nobody got into the office earlier or left later. She worked her way up from "mouseburger" from Arkansas, to super-secretary in L.A., to copywriter extraordinaire in L.A. and New York, and then to Cosmo, where she reigned supreme from 1965 until she finally stepped down (sort of) in 1997.

Along the way she attracted millions of readers looking for 75 ways to pleasure a man or look at Burt Reynolds naked. I have to admit, I looked at Reynolds naked but was disappointed because he wasn't really naked — he didn't take off his toupée.

Gurley Brown didn't have any children; she considered them competitors for attention. But she did spawn a generation of magazine editors, male as well as female, who work harder than anyone else to enumerate experience (37 Ways to Pound Sand!) on the covers of their magazines.

Finally, she left the best motto: "Good girls go to heaven, bad girls go everywhere."

Wherever she's gone, I'll bet it's hot.

Long before Carrie Bradshaw was drinking cosmos, Helen Gurley Brown, pictured, defined sex and the single girl as editor of Cosmo. GEORGE DE SOTA/NEWSMAKERS

Cold cuts to sink your body into

GERO BRELOER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hamming it up

'Deli meats' tickle funny bone

Vegetarian Silvia Wald puts a cloth ham on the sales counter of her shop Aufschnitt (German for "cold cuts") in Berlin on Tuesday. Wald, an engineer in clothing technology, started in 2009 to design meat products from cotton stretch velvet, Lycra, wool or micro fibre with a realistic look.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Showcase of plush treats

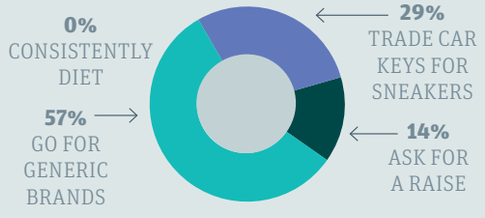
Aufschnitt's products include:

- Links of sausage to wrap around your neck like a scarf.
- A Serrano ham bean-bag chair complete with shapely hoof.
- A sausage-ring baby rattle.
- Sausage rings that double as neck-relaxation pillows.
- And the merchant's scales make a cosy kid's chair.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

How are you planning to handle expected higher food costs?



Twitter

@tuckergirl
Jeans, hoodies and socks?? Yes please! Freezing in #yxe today.

@corywolfe
Kudos to the @CFCRSASKATOON host Julie who played The Organ this morning. Made me smile en route to work.

@pclothespress
if you give a fish a man, he'd be like "wtf", if you teach a fish to man, he'll be like "duuuuuuuuuuude!"

@JohnnyAces
I now have way too many books in my queue to read. I'm going to need to pick up the speed.

@venustassays
Getting excited for folkfest this weekend in #yxe :) !

@theotherHilary
September is also Interstitial Cystitis Awareness Month. Say that three times fast.

metro
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Whitney Houston stars in Sparkle in another movie that features a posthumous performance. HANDOUT

After their light fades out

Posthumous praise. Houston's role in Sparkle isn't the only star to have a movie come out after their sudden death

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Sparkle actress Tika Sumpter says the movie "adds another diamond" to the legend of Whitney Houston. The film, a remake of a 1976 picture of the same name, stars the late singer in her final role.

The movie, in which she plays the single mother of a musical prodigy, was being heralded as her comeback, but instead is her swansong. She passed away in February, the result of an accidental drowning in the bathtub of her Beverly Hilton hotel room.

Houston's co-star Jordan Sparks said, "She lights up the screen, and you can just tell she's so full of joy to be doing this."

Houston is not the first performer to earn posthumous praise for a film role. In 2008 Heath Ledger won an Academy Award for his performance as the Joker in The Dark Knight, released after his January, 2008 death from accidental prescription drug overdose.

River Phoenix, another actor cut down at the height of his popularity, didn't live to see his final completed film Silent Tongue, a movie described as "a haunting tale of love, death and shame in the Old West." Dark Blood, the film Phoenix was just 11 days away from finishing when he overdosed in front of the Viper Room in Los Angeles, was thought lost to time, but has recently been resurrected and will debut in September at the Netherlands Film Festival.

Old Hollywood also saw its share of tragic ends and last performances.

The 1930s superstar Jean Harlow died of renal failure while filming Saratoga. Instead of replacing her, MGM used three doubles (one for close-ups, another for long shots and a third for dubbing the actress's lines) and rejigged the story. The salvaged movie became MGM's biggest hit of 1937.

Gary Cooper's last film, The Naked Edge, released a month after his death wasn't as well received.

Despite Cooper's best efforts — his cancer required that he take frequent oxygen breaks — the thriller was a flop.

THIS COVERS MOVIE START TIMES FROM WED., AUG. 15 TO THURS., AUG. 16. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Galaxy Cinemas Saskatoon
347 2nd Ave. South,
306-664-5060
No Passes Wed-Thu 1:40-4:15-7 No Passes Wed-Thu 9:35

Movie review

Odd Life is oddly unbalanced

The Odd Life of Timothy Green

Director. Peter Hedges,

Genre. Drama

The Odd Life of Timothy Green is a little fantasy about a peculiar kid who literally climbs out of the garden one night after a married couple write out the characteristics they seek in a son. It would be a promising premise for a children's book but as a film, this comic-drama falls like the inexplicable leaves shedding from the mysterious kid's ankles. With deliberate sincerity, the movie deals with mature themes of death and identity but there isn't much fun to balance it out. STEVE GOW

Ramsay aims to rehab hell hotels

New TV show. Celebrity chef trying to raise the standard of the hospitality industry with his blunt brand of business strategies

AMBER RAY
Metro World News

Kitchen Nightmares host Gordon Ramsay's new renovation reality show will make you think twice about staying at a hotel ever again.

In Hotel Hell, the celebrity chef steps out of the kitchen and into some bed-and-breakfasts and resorts in desperate need of overhaul.

The problems range from an unwillingness to change business strategies during a slow economy to — gross-out alert — finding a duvet cover that hadn't been cleaned for 18 months.

"It's so obvious what's wrong," Ramsay says of the hotels he visits in the new Fox series, which is now airing.

"I don't think common sense becomes that common in those scenarios. That's the frustrating part."

Ramsay swears he didn't travel to these hotels "to create havoc" — though he uses his trademark bluntness to point out flaws, which rubs some hotel owners the wrong way.

"The shock for me ... was the general hygiene," Ramsay says. "I'm talking about some very expensive hotels."

Gordon Ramsay brings his brand of blunt advice to hotels everywhere. HANDOUT

SCENE2

On the Web

Nobel laureates including Desmond Tutu call for NBC to halt Stars Earn Stripes reality show

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Mel Gibson

‘That’s life’ — Gibson not expecting forgiveness

While many wonder if Hollywood will forgive Mel Gibson for his outbursts over the last few years, the actor himself isn’t holding his breath. “I don’t even think they’re vindictive. I don’t think they think there’s reason to forgive,” he tells ComingSoon.Net. “It is kind of ridiculous. It’s kind of hard to pinpoint exactly what needs to be forgiven, and I don’t consider that anything does because I didn’t hurt anyone.” Others may beg to differ, including ex-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva and writer Joe Esztherhas, who taped one of Gibson’s tirades after their work on a screenplay fell apart. “That’s life,” Gibson says of the incident. “It ain’t easy and it’s not fair. You’ve just got to slip the old water off the back and move on.”

Stallone opens up about son’s death

Sylvester Stallone

In an interview with Good Morning America, Sylvester Stallone opens up for the first time about the recent death of his son, Sage Stallone.

“It’s tough. It’s very very tough,” Stallone says. “It’s a horrible situation but, time, hopefully will heal and you try to get through it. It’s something that’s a reality in life.” The actor and director, who is busy promoting The Expendables 2, recognizes that keeping busy with work can be helpful in times like these. “It’s important to get back and try to start re-living your life. Otherwise you can go into a spiral,” he says.

The 36-year-old Sage was found dead in his home in California last month. The cause of death is not yet known.

The Spice Girls

Posh Spice skips out on Olympic after-party

After their reunion on stage at the Olympics closing ceremony, the Spice Girls decided to keep the get-together going — minus one member — as they hit up George Michael’s after-party, according to Hollyscoop. “They really enjoyed all being back together,” a source says, noting that Victoria Beckham decided to skip out on the revelry. “She did not go back out and so it was just the other four girls. Everyone was a little disappointed that she did not come out to celebrate after.”

The Word

Aniston expands her wedding guest list

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

Although he’s been engaged to Jennifer Aniston for less than a week, Justin Theroux is already proving to be quite the family man.

After years of estrangement, he’s convinced Aniston to add her mother, Nancy Dow, to the wedding guest list.

“Justin comes from a tight-knit family, who he is very close to. He preaches family values to Jennifer and he said to her he’d love a private, low-key ceremony with all their family members present,” a source tells RadarOnline.

Aniston didn’t invite Dow to her wedding to Brad Pitt in 2000 — which was only one year after Dow released an unwelcome book about her daughter — but the actress has since softened her stance.

“She agreed, said she’d forgiven her mom for her past discrepancies and that Nancy should be a guest at her second wedding,” the source tells Radar.

Is it a nice gesture? We guess. But this is like getting left out of the beach trip, then invited to the sandy drive home.

Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart

Split-couple not on highest paid celeb list

While the world waits for word on the status of Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart’s relationship after Stewart’s admission of cheating on Pattinson with director Rupert Sanders, the folks at Forbes magazine seem to have drawn their own conclusions. When the magazine released its Highest Paid Celebrity Couples list last week, it left off Pattinson and Stewart, who ranked fifth last year.

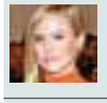
“Stewart and Pattinson were, in fact, left off the list because they are broken up,” a magazine rep tells the Huffington Post.

Rachel Weisz

Rachel Weisz talks marriage, motherhood

Though usually averse to discussing her marriage to Daniel Craig, Rachel Weisz lets a few personal questions in to her interview in the new issue of the U.K. edition of Marie Claire. “It wasn’t really like that,” Weisz insists when asked if it was love at first sight with Craig. “We’d been friends for ages.” She’s even more forthcoming on the subject of being a working wife and mother. “Like any job, there are days when you’re just pulling your hair out. The same as anyone who wants to be with their kid or husband,” she says. “Every mother feels that, don’t they? Of course sometimes it’s great to get away and feel, ‘Hooray, I’m not changing [diapers] today.’ I mean, I love my son, but it’s not without conflict.”

Twitter



@IMKristenBell
Dear Parents, when on an airplane, do not give your erratic children toys that make tons of noise. Sincerely, Common Sense

@daxshepard1
Watching a doc about Costco. Its a collision of my two favorite things: documentaries and Costco.

@russellcrowe
had an awning attached to mini RV, gym gear under cover,say “had” because at 6am it gave in to the wind, it was a wild night in Reynisfjara

@SarahKSilverman
I slipped, banana-peel style, while running to get the phone. Or as the beaten say, I FELL DOWN

5 underwater spots in Mexico

Whether you're a longtime divemaster or just dipping your fins in to scuba, Mexico's muy bonita underwater landscapes beckon. Miles of reef chains, cenotes (natural sinkholes used as gateways to expansive subterranean river systems) as well as some of the best drift diving in the Western Hemisphere will have you itching to get wet.

MIKE DOJC
travel@metronews.ca

Don't be afraid of the bats! ISTOCK

Calvera, Temple of Doom

According to local lore, shipwrecked Spanish conquistadors met their watery graves here as human sacrifices to the rain god Chac. While it's not as booby-trapped as the one in the Indiana Jones film, it is as unsettling from the outset with ominously positioned cutouts in the roof of the cave resembling eye sockets. Then there's the ten-foot plunge into the mouth of the calvera (Spanish for skull) before hitting water. Once inside the underwater chamber overhead, a layer of fruit bats — also known as megabats will have your Spidey-sense tingling. Open water scuba diver certification is a must to explore the depths of this murky cavern.

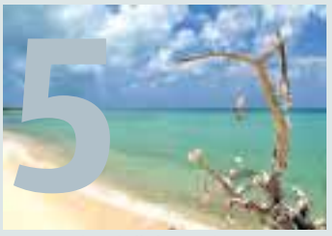
Are you ready to swim with sharks? ISTOCK

Gordo Banks

If you're an experienced advanced diver and can handle the deep stuff (the shallowest part of this seamount lies under 130 feet of water), it's well worth the 13-kilometre boat ride from the coast of San Jose del Cabo. While the underwater mountain's lunar-like landscape is worth the trip alone, the highlight reel of this dive for many intrepid divers will be studying schooling hammerhead sharks, making eyes at manta rays and miming "en garde" at a passing swordfish. Live versions of familiar seafood plate in Tuna and snappers will also likely find their way into the frame of many of your underwater photographs.

Isla Mujeres

A 13-kilometre swim from the beaches of Cancun, the Island of Women, a 650-metre wide sliver of an island, isn't just for hormonal college kids who took the municipality's names a tad too literally. This Isla offers a wide variety of dive sites to satisfy the full spectrum of diving tastes. Beginners can play a Seussical game of one fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish while ogling the vibrant sea life at Manchones Reef. Also, wreck divers exploring the 100-foot deep Ultrafreeze are an additional bonus. The cargo ship's iron and metal haul is a magnet for baitfish and so the bigger guys on the fish food chain including dolphins and barracudas often feed here. Meanwhile, art lovers can take in the Cancun Underwater Museum off the island's western coast. Eco-sculptor Jason de Caires Taylor's stunning 450-piece underwater statue garden is a synergy of art and conservation. The statues are made of pH-neutral cement to promote the growth of coral reef.



Dive sites abound off of Cozumel. ISTOCK

Paradise Reef

If you're transitioning from snorkeling to scuba this shallow reef 200 yards from Cozumel's western coast is a great place to earn your neutral buoyancy cred. While envious shore snorkellers spy the coral from a distance, you'll be able to get up close and personal with the colourful plankton catchers. Be sure to keep a lookout for spotted moray eels and sea horses. If you're not afraid to swim in the dark, Paradise Reef is a very popular night dive spot. Dive sites abound along the Mesoamerican barrier reef system which extends beyond Mexico's Caribbean coast into Belize, Guatemala and Honduras. It's the second largest in the world, behind Australia's Great Barrier Reef.

Catch the views above water, too. LISA ANDRES/FLICKR

Sand Falls

Off the shores of San Lucas near Anega Rock, the sand cascades over submerged cliffs like an underwater waterfall. This curious phenomenon was first documented by the inventor of the Aqua-Lung and famed deep blue explorer, Monsieur Jacques-Yves Cousteau in the 1970s. Suitable for intermediate divers but still rewarding to even seasoned veteran underwater explorers, the sand falls start at a depth of 90 feet, so your bottom time will be limited. If the flowing sand isn't enough, the site is also home to over 300 species of sea creatures for your viewing pleasure.

On the web

VisitBritain hopes for post-Olympics boost from Spice Girls, Damien Hirst

Mediterranean goes fruity with watermelon-topped Greek pita

Not only are these Greek Pita Flatbreads easy to prepare, but they are also healthy and satisfying.

In this recipe, watermelon replaces traditional toppings, providing a unique, refreshing taste.

Remember, the fruit is 90 per cent water, making this dish very juicy.

These pitas are most ideal for a quick afternoon snack or to serve tapas-style at a summer gathering in your backyard.

1. Spread 15 ml (1 tbsp) tzatziki on each of the four whole-wheat pitas.

2. Dividing all of the ingredients, top each pita evenly with cooked and sliced chicken breast, chopped watermelon, chopped cucumber, sliced red onion, crumbled feta cheese, pitted olives and cracked black pepper.

3. Garnish the top of each pita with fresh oregano and a wedge of lemon. Serve them immediately.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ NATIONAL WATERMELON BOARD, WATERMELON.ORG

Ingredients

- 4 whole-wheat pitas (15-cm/6-inches in diameter)
- 60 ml (4 tbsp) prepared tzatziki sauce
- 2 chicken breasts (each 175 g/6 oz), cooked and sliced
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) chopped watermelon
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) chopped English cucumber
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) sliced red onion
- 60 ml (4 tbsp) crumbled feta cheese
- 12 kalamata olives, pitted
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) black pepper, cracked
- Fresh oregano leaves
- Lemon wedges

Greek Pita Flatbread

This recipe serves four. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Drink of the Week

Canadian take on Latin-American drink

- 1 muskmelon or 1 l (4 cups), strawberries or raspberries
- 375 to 500 ml (1 1/2 to 2 cups) cold water
- 30 to 45 ml (2 to 3 tbsp) lime juice
- 15 to 30 ml (1 to 2 tbsp) granulated sugar
- Melon cubes, for garnish

Peel and seed muskmelon. Cut into chunks and measure out 1 l (4 cups). Place in food processor and purée along with 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) water. Place sieve over bowl. Using back of ladle and pressing in circular motion, press fruit through. Stir in 30 ml (2 tbsp) of lime juice and 15 ml (1 tbsp) of sugar. Add more water if mixture is too thick (it should be thin). Add additional lime juice or sugar, if needed. Refrigerate and serve very cold. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ WATERMELON.ORG

Fennel brings the classic Egg Salad Sandwich into 2012

If ever there was a vegetable dogged by misunderstanding, fresh fennel is it. Because while it may taste like anise and look like a bulb, it is neither.

While fennel is a relative of anise, they are separate plants. And while the base of fennel is bulbous, that's its shape, not its plant variety. So now that we've cleared up what fennel isn't, let's focus on what it is.

Fresh fennel resembles a cross between cabbage, celery and dill. The taste is assertively licorice and sweet. The base of the fennel is round with tightly overlapping pale green leaves. Sprouting out of that are long celery-like stalks topped with fine frilly leaves.

Technically speaking, all parts of the plant are edible, but most people will find the stalks too tough and fibrous to eat. The leaves can be chopped and used to flavour salads, dressings, marinades and sauces. They tend to be slightly more citrusy flavour than the base.

The base (or bulb) is delicious raw or cooked. The thick bottom and outer leaves usually are trimmed off, then the rest can be sliced or chopped.

Here, it's used to remake the classic egg salad sandwich.

1. In a medium bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise, mustard, hot sauce and lemon zest and juice. Taste, then season with salt and pepper.

2. Mix in the red onion and fennel. Coarsely chop the eggs, then gently stir them in. The eggs should be thoroughly mixed, but not mashed.

3. Arrange a bed of greens over 3 slices of the bread, then divide the egg salad between them. Sprinkle each with smoked paprika before topping with a second slice of bread.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- Splash hot sauce
- Zest of 1/2 a lemon
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- Salt and black pepper
- 1 small red onion, finely diced
- 1/2 fennel bulb, trimmed and finely chopped
- 6 eggs, hard-boiled, cooled and peeled
- Lettuce or other greens
- 6 slices sandwich bread, lightly buttered and toasted
- Pinch smoked paprika

This recipe serves three. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montuna Cristo. For light lunch or dinner, combine tuna, dill and lemon

1. In a medium bowl, mix tuna and mayonnaise.

2. In a large shallow bowl, beat egg. Meanwhile, heat frying pan and melt butter.

3. Spread half of the tuna mixture on each of 2 slices of bread. Dip bread into eggs carefully to avoid coating tuna mixture. Place egg-coated side down in frying pan.

4. Dip 1 side only of remaining slices in egg and place egg-coated side up on top of slices already in pan. Fry sandwiches on both sides until crust is golden brown and serve immediately.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CLOVER LEAF

Ingredients

- 2 cans (each 170 g) flaked light tuna with dill and lemon
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) mayonnaise
- 1 large egg
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) butter
- 4 slices whole-grain bread

Manage your management role

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ELIAS
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Management experience is a valuable asset, particularly if you're looking for an entry-level job.

Regardless of your area of expertise, a position as a manager indicates to prospective employers that you can be trusted with authority and are capable of maintaining a big-picture perspective while tending to particulars.

However, getting this experience can be a bumpy ride, particularly in the seasonal and part time positions where students and recent graduates usually achieve management roles.

You might find yourself in charge of people significantly older than you, or former co-workers who had their eyes on your job. The following advice should help you stay afloat as you set sail in your management role.

Admitting to your team that you need their help in a certain area shows them that you are honest and that you value their abilities. ISTOCK

Manage yourself

If you manage a group of individuals who already understand the full scope of their responsibilities (like a retail store, for example), you'll be able to provide a minimal amount of direction, reducing the likelihood of tension or misunderstanding.

In a more collaborative workplace, you'll need to provide oversight without interfering with group dynamics.

In either case, try and take a step back from your position of authority and allow employees to fill that space. Encourage as much communication and discussion as is appropriate. Any decisions that employees can make through group consensus should be left to their discretion.

Outline roles

Some workplaces assign duties informally, teaching each employee his or her responsibilities through word of mouth. This can lead to tension when unexpected tasks arise.

If possible, formalize existing responsibilities in writing as a group.

This practice will hopefully encourage open discussion and collaboration when the unexpected happens, as well as ensuring all employees are familiar with each other's responsibilities.

It will also help ensure that no one can accuse you of sloughing unpleasant tasks onto one particular person you "don't like."

Reinforce the chain of command

Just as your staff answer to you, you're accountable to a higher-up. While you don't want to undermine your authority, make sure that your employees are aware of your role as part of a chain of command.

Frame team objectives not only in terms of tasks–be sure to emphasize long-term goals as dictated to you from above.

Accept the inevitable

As with any endeavor, you won't become a perfect manager overnight – it takes hard work:

- Be prepared to make mistakes, despite your best efforts.
- Accept that some people won't like your decisions.
- Push yourself to learn from this experience, but don't expect it to be smooth sailing.
- With luck, your first management position in a part time or entry level job will be the start of a lifelong learning process.

Don't be afraid to admit to your team when you'll need to pass their questions up the chain. It's better to be honest about the limits of your knowledge than risk moving outside your authority.

Cut the social stuff

If your staff are a sociable bunch, post-work gatherings can be a tightrope you have to cross.

People let off steam outside of work by saying things that they can't say at work. You don't want to overhear anything that might impact your ability to do your job professionally and above reproach.

At the same time, refusing to take any part in staff gatherings will make you seem unfriendly and aloof, and impact on morale and communication at work.

Try and walk a fine middle ground. Attend social events infrequently and avoid joining impromptu plans. When you go, stay long enough to talk to everyone briefly. Be neither the life of the party nor a wet blanket. Leave quietly, not furtively.

RECENT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE GRADUATE ELIAS DA SILVA-POWELL IS A SUMMER MARKETING AND EDITORIAL INTERN AT TALENTEGG.CA WHO IS RETURNING TO QUEEN'S THIS FALL TO COMPLETE A MASTER'S DEGREE IN ENGLISH.

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Student Voice

Plan for the worst and hope for the best

Andrew Gillespie
Graduate
Bachelor of Science in Physics with a minor in Applied Mathematics
Master of Science in Chemistry
University of Calgary

TalentEgg.ca

I graduated in 2001, during the first tech bubble burst, with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Calgary. No one was hiring at all and in most science-and-technology-based companies massive layoffs and hiring freezes were taking place. I had to work at a coffee shop part-time to weather the storm.

It was suggested that I go back to do a master's degree, which was thought to be an advantage and something better to do while the economy recovered. I graduated in 2004, and this time the economy was much better and the energy boom in Alberta was going on. But once again I could not get a job in the industry I studied in, which was chemistry. Even as a data entry clerk or lower lab tech, none of the companies were willing to hire me. Either I didn't have the experience or I was overqualified. I ended up having to work at rental car companies and big box stores.

After two years I managed to get my foot in the door with an oil exploration company, doing low-end work, again at a rate much lower than I desired considering the amount of time I invested in my education. However, I thought it would be good work experience. After a year the company had to lay off staff and I was one of those laid off.

It took another year of searching before I finally landed a job with another oil exploration company, this time as a field administrator. This job certainly did not require the education I had, but again I thought this would be a great stepping stone, and in a way it was.

I had to send out so many resumés over a period of months, with a success rate of nearly one per cent of obtaining some kind of interview. It took a placement company to get the current job I have now, after working temporarily with another temp agency.

Where I am now

I currently work for a different oil exploration company as a technical writer — not the career I was looking for, but it's a good-paying job with benefits. I believe that university education is far overrated and the institutions lack the proper future planning or placement of their graduates unlike the trade schools or even colleges.

Disappointed, to a degree

"I believe that university education is far overrated and the institutions lack the proper future planning or placement of their graduates unlike the trade schools or even colleges."
Andrew Gillespie

My recommendations for employers, schools and career centres

Do better research in the demands for graduates of all the different programs offered at a particular university. Make students start planning for their career after graduation. Push the value of work experience through co-op or internship programs. I also believe that the departments at university should put a cap on students within a program, or increase grade standards for degrees with little demand in the workforce.

My recommendations for students

Do your homework! I mean research into the demands for the type of degree you want to obtain within industry. Determine if this is feasible or impossible. The jokes about BA degrees are soon spreading into BScs; the workplace is particularly fussy to what exactly you study now.

For graduates, take what you can get if something good is offered to you, even if it isn't exactly what you're looking for — you may like the job anyway or it could lead to something better later on. When you do start to work plan for the worst. Start saving money, don't spend recklessly on luxury items. You may need that extra cash when the economy goes bust once again.

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SPORTS 4

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr, centre, speaks at a press conference on Tuesday in Toronto with some of the NHL's top stars. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Players willing to take less in new CBA

NHL. NHLPA's offer designed to produce 'a stable industry,' says union head Fehr

As it tabled its first offer in the latest round of NHL labour talks, the NHL Players' Association presented itself as a partner looking to help fix the league's problems — but not one willing to bear all the burden.

Flanked by superstars Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin, NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr said Tuesday the union's offer includes a smaller percentage of revenues for players and an expanded revenue-sharing program to help struggling teams.

"We do believe that the proposal the players made today, once implemented, can produce a stable industry ... that can give us a chance to move beyond the recurring labour strife that has plagued the NHL the last two decades," said Fehr.

By the union's calculations, the deal could see players give up as much as $465 million US in revenue if the league continues to grow at an average rate for the next three seasons.

The proposal includes delinking the salary cap from hockey-related revenue and setting a fixed rate — increasing by two per cent for the first year, four per cent for the second and six per cent for the third.

Afterwards, the players would hold an option to have the fourth year revert back to the current system, where they are entitled to receive 57 per cent of all revenues.

The NHLPA's belief is that owners would pocket more profits over the first three years of the deal, some of which could be dispersed to struggling franchises in an effort to strengthen the league overall.

"I like it a lot," Crosby said of the proposal. "I think, as Don said, it's addressing the issues that the league has. (We're) making sure as players that we do our part to help those (struggling) teams out, but also holding the teams accountable.

"At the end of the day, it's going to take both (sides) to do that."

The current CBA expires Sept. 15 and the NHL has said there will be a lockout if a new agreement isn't in place by then. THE CANADIAN PRESS

League's response

An NHL proposal tabled last month called for a significant decrease for players in revenue share by introducing new contract restrictions, including a five-year cap on deals.

- Commissioner Gary Bettman said he hopes to continue talks Wednesday.
- "It's clear to me that they didn't put (the counter-offer) together in an hour or two.... We're going to need to take a little bit of time to evaluate it," Bettman said.

Hockey

Canadians up the challenge in Game 4 vs. Russia

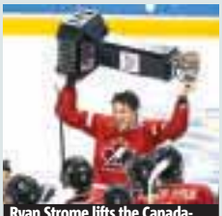
Ryan Strome scored at 3:20 of overtime on Tuesday to give Canada a win in the Canada-Russia Challenge after the Canadians won 4-2 in regulation time.

Because it was a four-game series, Canada needed a win in regulation time to force a 20-minute sudden-death overtime to decide the Challenge.

After some great work by Xavier Ouellet to keep the puck in the Russian zone, Strome took a pass and fired a wrist shot past Russian goalie Andrei Vasilevski.

After winning the first game of the series that commemorates the 40th anniversary of the 1972 Summit Series, Canada lost Game 2 in Russia and then dropped Game 3 in Halifax to fall behind.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ryan Strome lifts the Canada-Russia Challenge trophy Tuesday in Halifax. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Football itch takes Khan to Calgary

Obby Khan's CFL retirement didn't last very long.

Less than four months after calling it quits, the former Winnipeg Blue Bombers centre has returned, signing with the Calgary Stampeders on Tuesday. The 31-year-old Khan announced his retirement in April after eight CFL seasons. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mobile sports

As Canada's Olympians return home, another crop of athletes is heading to London. The Canadian Paralympic team was officially named Tuesday during a send-off at Toronto's Pearson airport. Some 145 athletes will suit up in 15 sports for Canada, which is aiming for a top-eight finish in the medal standings. Scan the code for the story.

Boyd hoping to spread the love in Edmonton

Cory Boyd tries to break a tackle by the Stampeders' Juwan Simpson in Toronto last month. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cory Boyd has come to terms with his stunning departure from the Toronto Argonauts and is prepared to bring plenty of "peace, love and joy" to his new CFL home.

Boyd met with Edmonton reporters Tuesday for the first time since agreeing to terms with the Eskimos late Sunday night. The move came hours after the Argos' shocking decision to release Boyd, twice a 1,000-yard runner with the club and the league's rushing leader this season.

Boyd says he is fine with comments made by some former teammates and the speculation surrounding why he was let go, which ranges from missed blocking assignments on the field to personal issues in the dressing room.

"I'm a guy who stays to myself, I'm a loner, and I guess that rubbed people the wrong way when they wanted to go do things, hang out," Boyd said.

"But I'm very respectful, I just expect that when people say certain things to me, we can all be on the same page with peace, love and joy."

He joins an Edmonton team that has been reduced to just two healthy running backs but one is Hugh Charles, who trails Boyd by just 47 rushing yards and isn't about to give up his starting job.

"We're very pleased with Hugh Charles," said head coach Kavis Reed. "He's done a phenomenal job."

Boyd said he is fine being a backup so long as he gets the chance to play.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Speaking his mind

"I'm always open and very blunt and I think that ruffled the feathers of some people."

Cory Boyd, on what he thinks went wrong in Toronto

5 DRIVE

5 Favourite price-defying cars

Value is a demand for today's new-car shopper and automakers are providing it with higher levels of technology, style and quality at lower prices than ever. Cars that feel equipped, engineered and designed to a higher level than suggested by their price are the best kinds of cars if you like value, which you do.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

Whether it's advanced functionality, performance, a great cabin or just a whack load of goodies for the price, here are a few rides that do a better-than-average job of feeling more expensive than they really are.

1

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Ford Focus Titanium

The Focus Titanium is full of thoughtful little touches that do big things to make it delightful. A cap-less fuel filler, one-touch up and down windows, embossed leather seats, LED mood-lighting and a colourful, deep and detailed interior with heaps of at-hand storage are some examples. Ford Sync, key-less start, and a self-parking system add high-tech appeal, and an ultra-modern and premium cabin atmosphere rounds out the package.

2

Jeep Grand Cherokee

The new Jeep Grand Cherokee combines a laundry-list of advanced features and legendary off-road performance with a seriously great-looking cabin.

Premium materials and accents throughout the cabin, including wood and aluminum, keep eyes and fingertips engaged. There's a modern, vibrant and high-quality feel throughout, backed up by a fantastic, solid on-road ride. A power tailgate, panoramic sunroof, navigation, automatic high-beams, and even a 120-volt power outlet can all be specified.

You can fully deck out a top-line Grand Cherokee with all the toys for about the starting price of a BMW X5.

3

Kia Rio

The Kia Rio SX with the Luxury Navigation package amounts to a sub-$22,000 car with a list of features befitting a flagship luxury sedan. Heated steering wheel? Check. Navigation? Backup camera? Automatic climate control? You got it. There's also Bluetooth audio streaming, push-button start, heated leather and plenty more.

It's all wrapped in one of the compact car segment's most upscale and detailed cabins. Colour, contrast and depth all work towards a fantastic level of sophistication.

4

Hyundai Genesis R-Spec Sedan

A combination of things make the Genesis Sedan feel like it should cost more. The rich, leather-wrapped cabin is sumptuous on a level that rivals $100,000 German cars.

The five-litre V8 has more ponies per litre than virtually any luxury sedan on the road, and the Lexicon stereo will rattle the plates off of your grandmother's walls. You get eight gears, 429 horsepower and all the goodies — alongside world-class levels of space, style, quiet and luxury for about $53,500.

Incidentally, that's about $5,000 less than a 310-horsepower Audi A6.

5

Volvo S60 R-Design

For about $51,000, Volvo's S60 R-Design gives drivers 325 horsepower, all-wheel drive (AWD), a sport-tuned chassis and unquestionably the most comfortable seats in the industry. It's also one of the most beautiful cars to drive on any road, and in any weather, on this side of a six-digit price tag.

A lengthy list of super-advanced safety features is standard, and a sophisticated cabin with plenty of unique touches furthers the 'naughty' Volvo's character.

On the Web

Scan code for more car reviews and news

First-time new-vehicle buyers aren't so young

Talking about the old folks. You can sell a whippersnapper's car to an older person, but not the other way around

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Hyundai Veloster is targeted at Generation Y, but older drivers like it too. With more older buyers ready, willing and able to drive the vehicle home, they've pushed the medium age of the Veloster buyer in Canada to 46. CONTRIBUTED

In a recent study, with a sample size of one (me), the findings are that 50 might be the new 30, but only when you consider a very small and select group of body parts. All other body parts are very adamant about being 50 or better.

In another study, this time by the automotive research arm of Maritz Canada, and with a much larger sample size, the findings are that 50, or more precisely, 50.8, is the average age of new-vehicle buyers in this country. With such a large post-war baby boom in Canada, it shouldn't be a surprise that most buyers are 50-something, but it still seems surprising, or at least surprising-ish.

Now consider this: The average age of first-time buyers is 38!

"This is not to say the 20-24 age group is not buying cars, just that they aren't buying them in numbers that people may think," says Chris Travel of Maritz Canada. "The action is with older customers, not only in sheer numbers, but also in their ability to pay for vehicles."

Money is obviously a thing that can keep a young buck separated from a $196,400 Porsche 911 Turbo S. One thing young people certainly have lots of is "no money."

John Vernile is vice president of marketing at Hyundai Auto Canada. He notes that Hyundai's average buyer age hovers around 50, even when the vehicles are targeted to young people. For example, the medium age of Accent buyers is dead on 50, while the medium age of Elantra buyers is 53. Again, this is not to say that young people don't buy them, they do, just that older folk buy more.

According to Maritz, when young people do buy new, they do head most to the subcompact and compact segments. But considering how many older people buy the things too, it seems a bit weird to me somehow, that the marketing of these vehicles is so heavily skewed to the younger, beach volleyball set. But at least it conforms to an old auto industry maxim — you can sell a young person's car to an older person, but can't sell an older person's car to a younger person.

Vernile notes that Hyundai is particularly interested in the young buyer.

"Our loyalty rate, at 52 per cent, is among the highest in the industry. Once we get 'share of driveway' we tend to hang on to our customers, as they move through their life stages."

Another factor in this discussion, of course, is that this current crop of young people is just not as interested in getting behind the wheel as previous generations. We talked about this cultural shift before.

I still don't get it, but if middle age has taught me anything, it's that the list of things I don't get is infinite and expanding — so no sense in getting hung up on every little mystery that comes along.

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Someone you work with will try to sabotage your efforts today. They won't succeed, but it might be an idea to ask yourself why they are being so mean. Most likely they are jealous of your popularity.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Before a disagreement of some sort gets out of hand, try standing back and seeing things from the other person's point of view. Maybe you are being a bit too harsh. Maybe they need encouragement.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Take care not to be wasteful over the next few days. No matter how much you think you need something and no matter how much of a bargain you believe it is, wait before reaching for your wallet.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You may be rather emotional today but nothing bad will come of it. The important thing is that you don't allow yourself to overreact. Whatever your current problem may be, it's not the end of the world.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may not want to force a friend or loved one to do something against their will but you have no choice. The fact is you are going to have to crack the whip – it's the only way to get them moving.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Different people have different personalities and because of that tend to look at the world in different ways. Bear that thought in mind when dealing with someone who, to your way of thinking, seems a bit stupid.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone in a position of power will give you a hard time today but now that you are aware of that fact, you can take evasive action. Stay out of their way if you can — and, if you can't, refuse to be riled.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something that you committed to a few weeks ago no longer grabs you, mentally or emotionally, in the way it once did. Too Bad. You made a promise to other people, so you must see it through to completion.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Never, ever allow yourself to get emotional about money. The moment you break this cardinal rule is the moment you start asking for trouble. If you need to cut your losses then do so.

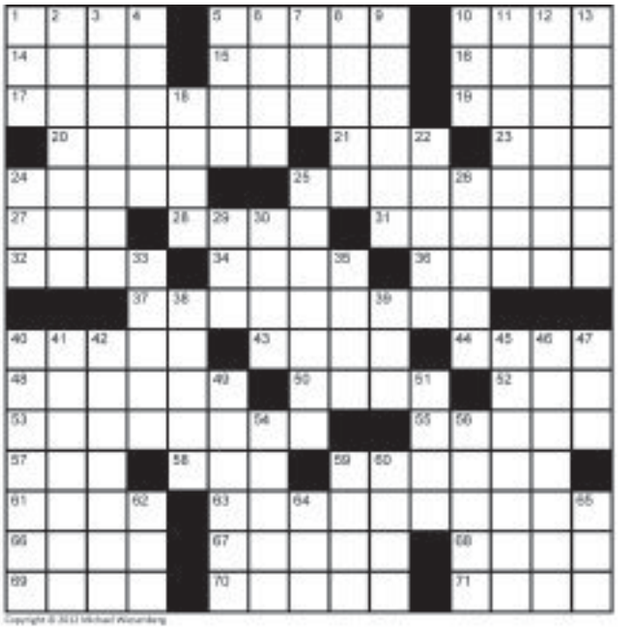
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Someone you work or do business with is being annoyingly obstructive and things will come to a head over the next 24 hours. A parting of the ways may well be the only option left open to you.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You seem to be lacking a sense of urgency at the moment, which is holding you back from starting something that could be good for you. Today's Mars-Saturn link will push you into action.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may be tempted to go your own way and do your own thing but the planets warn you won't get far. Some things are better done in alliance with other people to spread the risk and share the joys of success. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: More Miscellany

BY MICHAEL WIESENBERG



Across
1. US government agent, for short
5. "___ in the hand is worth two ..." (2 wds.)
10. Barber's concern
14. Tiny bit
15. Breezy Hawaiian room
16. Throb
17. Prominent Prairie Provinces feature
19. False god or idol
20. Ottawa-born songstress Morisette
21. Here: Fr.
23. 506: Rom. numerals
24. String quartet member
25. Canadian lawmen
27. Special connections
28. "Monster" that's really a lizard
31. ___ of Georgia: Gulf Islands location
32. Predicament
34. Pig sound
36. Leases out
37. July 1 holiday (2 wds.)
40. Room under the roof
43. Pro ___: proportionately
44. Agreed-on guidelines: abbr.
48. Knucklehead
50. Crypt
52. Picante
53. East Coast's ___ Provinces
55. "___ having fun yet?" (2 wds.)
57. "How was ___ know?" (2 wds.)
58. Bigheadedness
59. Like some measures (metres and feet, say)
61. Baseball scores
63. One of 53-Across (2 wds.)
66. Artist born Romain de Tirtoff, from his French initials
67. Excluding, with "from"
68. Angers
69. Winter forecast
70. Rental contract
71. Not more

Down
1. Band's engagement
2. 8 miles from Lake Louise, this lake has same blue-green color and is named from the rockpile at one end
3. ___ for words: speechless (3 wds.)
4. Like some twangs
5. "___ Want for Christmas ..." (2 wds.)
6. Pasture sounds
7. B&B
8. AM/FM apparatus
9. Olympic saucer
10. Canadiens member, familiarly
11. Early French Canadian
12. Puzzle solver's exclamation (3 wds.)
13. Puts back on eBay
18. Cause of a delay
22. Prefix meaning "within" before "mural" or "venous"
24. High spirits
25. Landslide winner's claim
26. 3s in poker
29. Charged particle
30. Perjurer
33. Space opera genre (2 wds.)
35. Green Hornet's sidekick
38. Less than 90°
39. BC Hydro structure
40. Regards highly
41. How a roast is done (perfectly) (3 wds.)
42. Argonauts' home
45. IMAX ___
46. Gifts or cash put up by bride's father
47. Sault ___ Marie
49. Cell phone requirement
51. BMO, for one: Fr.
54. ___ Jaw, SK
56. Add more lubricant
59. Fellows
60. "Understood!" (2 wds.)
62. Attach a button
64. Canadian National Rail's passenger subsidiary that became a separate Crown corporation in 1978
65. Donkey

Yesterday's crossword

What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

			8			7		
5		9		2			6	
8			6			9		
		7		1	8			3
	2						1	
3			9	6		8		
		1			3			4
	9			7		5		2
		5			4			

Yesterday's Sudoku

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